



Representative Mike Carrell

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Committees:
Judiciary, co-chair
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Finance



2001 Budget Report & Survey

Representing Anderson Island, Fircrest, Lakewood,
Steilacoom, part of Tacoma, Tillicum and University Place

Dear friends & neighbors,

The legislative session for 2001 has begun, and the business of the Legislature is in full swing. Everyday is filled with public hearings, "back to back" meetings with concerned citizens and tons of information to read.

Our greatest challenge in Olympia this year is to write a budget that **provides vital government services while still honoring the voter-approved initiatives**. Over 72% of the voters in Pierce County agreed to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on new programs for public schools, but Initiative 728 didn't identify where the \$470 million for schools should come from. We are faced with how to pay for what the voters have asked for. Should we make cuts in education, in public safety, in human services or should we increase taxes?

These are tough questions! That's why this year **it's especially important that you let us know what you're thinking**. One way you can let us know is to leave a message on the toll-free hotline, 1-800-562-6000. Another way to give us advice is to write a letter or complete this survey.

Whatever you do, know that we're here to serve you. Thanks for taking time to read this newsletter. **Please call us (1-800-562-6000), write us, fax or e-mail us anytime** – or stop by if you're visiting the Capitol. We value your advice!

Mike

Gigi



Representative Gigi Talcott

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Committees:
Education, co-chair
Appropriations
Select Committee on Elections -
vice chair



YOU'RE INVITED

TOWN HALL MEETING

**Saturday 10-11 am
March 17, 2001**

Lakewood
Community Center
9112 Lakewood Dr. SW



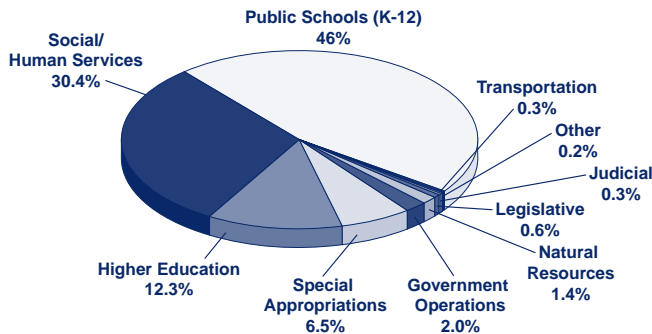
28th District

THE STATE BUDGET DILEMMA

by Mike Carrell

The budget surplus is gone!

What a difference a few months makes. Our state's budget surplus of \$1.3 billion, which was built up by six years of careful management of your money, is about to disappear. We are in a "sea of red ink" even before we even begin to write a budget!



New costs are "budget busters"

Three factors caused this turn of events. First, last fall voters passed two school initiatives I-728 and I-732. They will cost the state about \$750 million. Second, the increase in energy cost may amount to \$500 million more for state facilities. Third, health care and insurance cost are projected to increase about \$800 million.

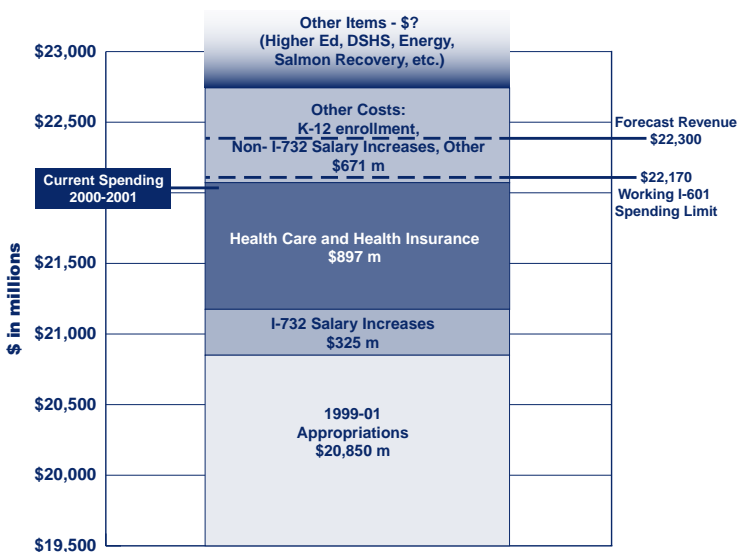
These "budget busters" result in an increased cost of about \$2 billion, which puts the state's budget into a near crisis. Unfortunately, the increased cost men-

tioned above does not include transportation's increased needs or other important programs. The degree of the budget crunch can be measured by the Governor's proposal to cut programs at Western State Hospital that would result in the release of one-fourth of the patients. In addition he is proposing to eliminate the tugboat at Neah Bay, which guides oil tankers into the Puget Sound and helps keep them from running aground. Neither Gigi nor I think those cuts are good ideas. However, these proposed cuts illustrate the difficulties in writing the state's budget.



Mike Carrell addressing the full House, representing the 28th District.

Potential Costs in 2001-03 budget



We need your advice

We need your ideas and suggestions. Basically, the legislature can do one of three things to solve the budget crisis: cut government programs, increase your taxes or some combination of government cuts and increased taxes. **We need your advice now more than ever.**

Gigi and I have always used our yearly citizen surveys to help us understand how we can better represent you in Olympia. This year, your helpful comments and input on the attached survey will be an essential guide for us in the worst budget year in two decades.

Please complete and return this survey as soon as possible. We read them all and will report back to you on the results. **Do not hesitate to write, e-mail or call us about the budget or any other issue that concerns you.**

EDUCATION SURVEY

by Gigi Talcott

Make your voice heard in Olympia!

We would like to know what you think about the important issues facing the Legislature this year, and will rely on your advice as we begin the budget debate in Olympia.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____



We love to have you visit the Capitol!

• EDUCATION 2001 • SO EVERY CHILD WILL SUCCEED

Are you ready for big changes in education?

For decades we've been graduating students based on the number of hours they've spent in class. Around here it's called "seat time." Now we're setting academic standards that are uniform across the state that require all students to at least read, write and solve math problems before they can graduate from high school. This is a dramatic change from the way we've been doing things for decades. As we work to move the school system in this new direction, we need to hear whether or not you think this is the right direction to go. I hope you can take a few minutes to let us know what you think about this.

- _____ Right direction
_____ Wrong direction

Accountability for both students and educators

We've written new, challenging academic standards for all students in all grades. We're beginning assessments (you may have heard of the WASL: Washington Assessment of Student Learning) for reading, writing,

listening, math and science. These tests are given to all 4th, 7th and 10th graders. The State Board of Education has required that this year's fifth graders meet the state's new academic standards before they can graduate with their Class of 2008.

Is this a:

- _____ Good idea
_____ Bad idea?

Another question or two I'd like to ask you...

Should students be expected to demonstrate what they know in reading, writing and math before they graduate?

- _____ Yes
_____ No

Should rewards and incentives be given to educators in schools where more and more students are successfully meeting these new, higher academic standards?

- _____ Yes
_____ No



Reps. MIKE CARRELL and GIGI TALCOTT

Should consequences and interventions come to educators in schools where students are not making progress in meeting the new higher, academic standards?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Too punitive

Bringing experienced professionals directly into our schools

You may know a highly capable professional who'd like to teach. Unfortunately, I believe, that person needs to go without a paycheck for a year or two before he/she could begin teaching. With a shortage of math, science, technology and special ed teachers, I'd like to see these talented professionals be able to move into our classrooms – provided they're given effective, helping mentors and a rigorous evaluation of how students are doing in their classes.

I feel so strongly about this proposal it's hard for me to write an unbiased question, but I'll try.

- ☐ Good idea
☐ Risky scheme

There's so much more to say about education. **We invite you to come visit Olympia** and attend a public hearing on one of these, or a hundred other proposals. Just leave us a message on the toll free hotline, 1-800-562-6000, to get details.



BUDGETS, TAXES & GOVERNMENT SURVEY

The two **education initiatives** passed by voters in November add about \$720 million in new spending. This increase in spending **virtually eliminate the state budget surplus and reserve fund**, leaving little to address transportation needs. What should the Legislature do in response to these increased spending requirements?

- ☐ Raise taxes to provide more revenue for the state's new spending needs while maintaining current spending levels for other important state services.
- ☐ Reduce spending for other state services and keep state spending at about the same level as the past few years.
- ☐ Privatize many state services to help reduce overall state spending.
- ☐ Spend the state budget surplus and Emergency Reserve Fund to pay for the increased spending (this would be a partial solution).

Based on the information provided in this newsletter, as well as your own understanding, do you think the Legislature should approve a budget that goes beyond the voter-approved 601 Spending Limit?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

To balance the state budget without tax increases it may be necessary to cut existing state programs and services. In what areas would you support spending cuts to help balance the budget? (Rank by order of priority, where 1 is where to cut first and 5 is where to cut last.)

- ☐ Social Services
☐ Health Care
☐ Public Schools (K-12)
☐ Higher Education
☐ Natural Resources
☐ Transportation
☐ Other (Please specify) _____

_____ Very willing
_____ Somewhat willing
_____ Not willing

- _____ Gas tax increase
- _____ Indexing the gas tax to inflation
- _____ Sales tax on gas
- _____ Weight-based user fees, applied to all private vehicles
- _____ Surcharge on transportation-related goods, such as new and used vehicles, parts and accessories
- _____ A statewide sales tax increase
- _____ Other (Specify) _____

- _____ New or expanded roads
- _____ More park-and-rides
- _____ More ferries
- _____ More buses
- _____ A second Narrows Bridge
- _____ More HOV lanes

_____ Too low

_____ Somewhat fair and reasonable

_____ Still too high

- ☐ Yes, because I'm on a fixed income
- ☐ Yes, because they have increased too much in the past couple of years
- ☐ Yes, because property values have become too high in my area
- ☐ No, they are at an affordable level for me

_____ Yes
_____ No

_____ Yes
_____ No

[illegible]

Please
place
stamp
here



State Representative Mike Carrell

State Representative Gigi Talcott

P.O. Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

★ TOWN HALL MEETING ★

Friends and neighbors on Anderson Island, in Fircrest, Lakewood, Steilacoom, University Place and West Tacoma have elected us to help solve the problems brought to the Legislature in Olympia. We have confidence that despite the magnitude of the problem, the job can be done. We hope to meet you personally on March 17th!

When: Saturday, March 17, 2001
10-11a.m.

Where: Lakewood Community Center
9112 Lakewood Drive SW

We want to hear from you!

- ◆ Ask us a question
- ◆ Give us advice
- ◆ Share your concerns
- ◆ Get help with a state agency
- ◆ Learn more about how state government works
- ◆ Set up a time to meet

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